

Facet 4: Exchanged Life Spiritually

Andrea Fisher

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Dr. Hodges

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In Paul states in Philippians 2:5, that we should have the same mind and attitude as Christ. The more Christ “abides in us,” the more our character, attitude and actions become Christ-like. Kenneth Boa notes in, *Conformed to His Image*, "our identification with Christ in his crucifixion and resurrection which means our old life has been replaced for the life of Christ." “Exchanged Life Spirituality” is not easy, but can be achieved. A clear sense of the principals involved in an exchange life spiritually and appreciation for God's character, which can be accomplished through prayer and spending time with God and studying His word.

A healthy conversation requires two parties, and it cannot be one sided. The same is true as it pertains to the conversations had with God during prayer. We cannot allow ourselves to be distracted and allow things to keep us from hearing the still small voice of God. Moses prayed in the wilderness, "let me know your ways, that I may know you, so that I may find favor in your sight...." The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Just as Moses, we should pray to God and wait to hear a response. A conversation with God is key to making decisions in life, and when we take the time to seek God, everything else falls into place because the more we spend time in prayer, the more we come to know God's character. In this way disciplining ourselves for an exchanged life.

Boa says, "God's personality is central to everything and in scripture, He has revealed His person, strengths, and imperfections." In addition to that, Boa also stated, "God is self-existent, infinite, eternal and an unchanging creator of all things. In his powers, he alone is omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient." Because of the complexity and greatness of who God is, it would be impossible to have a spiritual life outside of having and holding on to the truth of God's character. One of the ways to gain more insight and knowledge of who God comes from studying the word of God. Therefore, another way to disciplines oneself for and exchanged life is by

studying. The more we study, the more we know will come to know the character of God.

Studying the Word of God helps us to understand His character and attributes. It provides for us examples upon examples of a faithful God.

Just like anything that one may desire to obtain, an exchanged life spiritually happens over time when these disciplines and others like them are applied to one's life. The application brings about maturity and growth that causes one to develop a deeper relationship with God. As one discovers more about God, it will cause one to learn more about themselves, as well as who they are in Him. Daily as one seeks Him, they are being conformed to His image. It takes prayer and studying to find one's identity in Christ. Having the mind of Christ and being created in His image is a commitment believers make by faith when we affirm Christ's death for our sin. It demands a daily effort and time because it is never complete.

Bibliography

Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His image: biblical and practical approaches to spiritual formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.